



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
345 East Riverside Drive
St. George, Utah 84790
www.az.blm.gov or www.nps.gov



In Reply Refer To:
1610 (931)

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft Plan/DEIS) for the Arizona Strip, which includes the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument (Parashant), the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument (Vermilion), and the Arizona Strip Field Office planning areas. This document describes and analyzes five alternatives for managing the two National Monuments and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-administered lands in the Arizona Strip Field Office (AZ Strip FO).

In January and November of 2000, Presidential Proclamations 7265 and 7374 created the Grand Canyon-Parashant and Vermilion Cliffs National Monuments, respectively. The Parashant Proclamation directed the BLM and the National Park Service (NPS) to cooperatively manage the Monument. The Vermilion Cliffs National Monument is managed solely by the BLM.

The BLM and NPS published the Notice of Intent to prepare the Draft Plan/DEIS in the *Federal Register* on April 24, 2002. The agencies then published a newsletter and held 11 open houses in 2002 to encourage public input regarding the future management of the National Monuments and the AZ Strip FO. Ten cooperating agencies and a dozen other Federal and State agencies provided information and input into development of the Draft Plan/DEIS. From all this input, the BLM and NPS developed four conceptual alternatives that were presented to the public via newsletters and five open houses. Information from these meetings and the public input were then used to further refine and analyze the impacts of the alternatives and identify a Preferred Alternative.

This Draft Plan/DEIS describes five alternative strategies for managing the Monuments and the AZ Strip FO. Alternative E is the Preferred Alternative. We will use your comments on this document to develop a final decision for the NPS portion of the Parashant, and a Proposed Resource Management Plan for the BLM-administered lands. The final decision and Proposed RMP may be to implement one of the alternatives in its entirety or to use a combination of various actions contained in more than one of the alternatives described in this Draft Plan/DEIS.

We invite your comments on the content of this document. We are particularly interested in comments that address one or more of the following: 1) possible flaws in the analysis;

2) new information that would have a bearing on the analysis; and 3) needs for clarification.

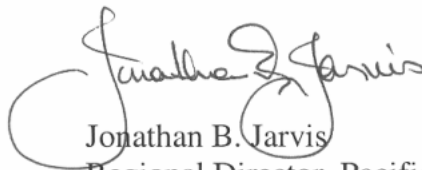
Public comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Office, at 91 West 1470 South, St. George, Utah 84790, during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Public participation is important for the successful development of these plans. We ask for your thoughtful evaluation and comments.

Sincerely,



Elaine Y. Zielinski
Arizona State Director
Bureau of Land Management



Jonathan B. Jarvis
Regional Director, Pacific West Region
National Park Service